

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) An apparatus for forming and thermosealing one end of a packaging container which is displaced by means of a conveyor through a forming station and a sealing station, wherein the forming station includes a mechanical forming device which is disposed along the conveyor a distance therefrom, as well as sealing devices disposed in the sealing station, the sealing devices similarly extending along the conveyor a distance therefrom and being disposed to heat a sealing region of the packaging container, and also compression devices disposed after the sealing devices and disposed to mechanically compress the heated wall portions so that these, after cooling, are sealed to one another in liquid-tight fashion;

wherein the forming device includes a folding rail extending along the conveyor, with a work surface which, seen in the direction of movement of the conveyor, is commenced in a first orientation and terminated in a second orientation which differs 90° from said first orientation, and wherein the first orientation is parallel with the longitudinal axis of a packaging container advanced by the conveyor.

4-5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently amended) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 4 Claim 3, wherein it includes the forming device includes two folding rails which progressively reform the packaging container end until such time as opposing walls thereof meet one another in a sealing fin and which are provided with counter-facing work surfaces which, at their final end, display a mutual interspacing which is equal to or slightly exceeds the total thickness of the wall portions included in the sealing fin of the packaging container.

7. (Previously presented) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the sealing device includes an inductor for inducing a heating magnetic field in a layer of conductive material included in the laminate.

8. (Previously presented) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 7, wherein an inductor is located at each side of the path of movement of an end portion of a packaging container advanced by means of the conveyor.

9. (Currently amended) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 4 Claim 3, wherein a mechanical preforming assembly is disposed ahead of the forming device seen in the direction of movement of the conveyor.

10. (Previously presented) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 9, wherein the preforming assembly includes two counter-rotating squeezers disposed on either side of the conveyor with peripheral mutually facing work surfaces which are driven in the direction of movement of the conveyor and at the same speed as the conveyor.